

EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Avenue

East Providence, Rhode Island 02914

June 13, 2005

Open Session

Mrs. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. School Committee Members Present: Robert Faria, Eileen Lovett, David Medeiros, Mildred Morris. Mr. Gouveia was absent. Also present: Manuel Vinhateiro, Superintendent of Schools and Attorney Andrew Thomas. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to move to Executive Session in accordance with RI General Laws, Section 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel, (a) (2) Litigation, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Roll call vote: Mr. Faria, aye; Mrs. Lovett, aye, David Medeiros, aye; Mrs. Morris, aye.

Mrs. Morris called the Open Session back to order at 7:30 PM. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to return to open session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 4-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to seal the minutes of the Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Vinhateiro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Record of Previous Meetings – Motion by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2005 meeting. Vote 4-0.

Chair's Report

John Butler, Student Council Liaison to the School Committee presented a report on various high school activities.

Recognition of Teamsters Local 251 – On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. David Medeiros presented a plaque to Stu Mundy of the Teamsters Local 251 in appreciation for their assistance to the schools and students of East Providence during the recent water crisis.

Mrs. Morris, Vice-Chairperson presented a report and wished the School Committee Chairman, Mr. Gouveia, a speedy recovery from his recent illness. Mrs. Morris asked for support of several pieces of legislation currently being debated at the statehouse. On behalf of the School Committee and School Department, she thanked the staff and students for a very productive school year.

Mrs. Morris also recognized the Superintendent, Mr. Vinhateiro, who

will be inducted into the RI College Hall of Fame in October.

Student Recognition

Mr. MacNamara, the Director of Music, thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to recognize many fine teachers and outstanding students. Several students performed and were recognized and congratulated for their accomplishments.

Mr. Vinhateiro related that the Viking Press, Riverside Middle School's newspaper, was recently voted the best middle school newspaper in the state by the Providence Journal. The students involved are attending academic awards night and were not able to be present for this meeting. They will be recognized at a later date.

School Committee Meeting Schedule – The School Committee approved the following meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005: August 9, 23, 30, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13, 2005. Motion by Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 5-0.

School Resource Officer Report – Mr. Vinhateiro reported that a recent article in the East Providence Post regarding gang violence in our schools caught the attention of the School Committee members and the Superintendent. Mr. Vinhateiro asked secondary school administrators and School Resource Officer, Paul Rodrigues, to be

present to discuss any gang-related problems in our schools. Mr. Daft and Mr. DeVall were present. Mr. Vinhateiro asked questions of the Officer Rodrigues; as requested by Mr. Gouveia, he has also had numerous conversations with all of the above and the Chief of Police who queried his professional staff. All unanimously agreed that there is no gang activity in East Providence schools or our community. Mr. Vinhateiro explained that newspaper articles such as this one cause angst and consternation in the community, and that accuracy is the most important part of reporting. School staff is always available to talk to the press about events in general and should be contacted first before articles are written. Mr. Vinhateiro wanted to let the community know that the community and our schools are safe and there was no basis for the newspaper article.

Hearings - None

Reading of Communications - None

Report of Superintendent and Staff

Auditor's Report – Paul Dansereau and Joanna L'Hereaux, Auditors from Parmelee, Poirier & Associates, LLP, were present to answer questions regarding Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended 10/31/04 and Management Letter Comments. Mr. Dansereau thanked the school administration staff for their cooperation, which enabled them to complete the audit within the time frame set by the Auditor

General. He related that management letter comments were made to strengthen internal controls; but they saw no problems.

Dr. Hilton, Finance Director, presented FY 2004-05 Budget Update/Monthly Financial Statement. He stated that there were no major problems, and that all bills were recorded up to date in the report. Mr. Faria wished to inform the community that the School Committee will be working with the City Council on the next year's budget at a joint budget workshop meeting scheduled for June 21, 2005 a 6:30 PM.

Personnel Recommendations – Mrs. Diane Rodericks presented the personnel items as follows:

APPOINTMENTS

Richard Silva Guidance Counselor, SHS

Alan Svendson Assistant Athletic Director, SHS

Derek DeSousa Assistant Football Coach, SHS

Jason Clancy Assistant Coach, Freshman Football, SHS

Linda Tarantelli Student Council Advisor

Riverside Middle School

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

REAPPOINTMENTS – SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL

Lynn Card-Kohanski English

Barbara Jacobson English

James Dwyer Computers/Math

Robert Cavallaro Math

Gregory McCarthy Science

Joseph Monteiro Phys Ed

Ana-Maria Spencer Secretary

Richard Silva Biology/Chemistry

Linda Tarantelli Grade 6

John Wolf Social Studies

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

RETIREMENT

Leonard Gregory Maintenance Mechanic B

Effective May 11, 2005

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

EXTENDED PERSONAL LEAVE

Kimberley Zeleznik Teacher, Grade 1, Orlo Avenue School

2005-2006 School Year

RECALLS

Stacey Azevedo Elementary (No bid-job fair)

Kathleen Bickford Elementary (No bid-job fair)

Katherine Pacheco Elementary (No bid-job fair)

Denise Castro Elementary (No bid-job fair)

Charles Hassell, Jr. Elementary (Leave of Absence)

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (1 Year)

Kerri Scandura Coach, Girls' Soccer, MMS

Richard Soroka Math teacher, Secondary Summer School

Myra Maini Spanish teacher, Secondary Summer School

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

RESIGNATIONS

Lauren Wasserman Reading Teacher – on leave

Effective end of 2004-2005 School Year

Paul Amaral Assistant Athletic Director

Effective end of 2004-2005 School Year

Paula Chace Head Teacher, Kent Heights School

Effective May 12, 2005

Shaaron DeBlois Head Teacher, Whiteknact School

Effective end of 2004-2005 School Year

Mary-Jane Estrella Safety Patrol Coordinator, Silver Spring School

Effective end of 2004-2005 School Year

Maureen McCarthy English teacher, Secondary Summer School

Emma Cabral Supervisory Assistant, Silver Spring School

Effective immediately

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

APPOINTMENTS

Joao Lopes Custodian B Effective July 18, 2005

(result of a retirement)

Joao Silva Custodian B Effective July 18, 2005

(result of a resignation)

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION SUMMER SCHOOL REAPPOINTMENTS
(Meadowcrest School)**

William Marcel	Principal
Jane Anderson	Secretary
Maureen Nolan	Middle/High – MMS
Gail Ramos	Pre-School – 4-5 y.o.
Donna Ferrucci	Grades 3, 4, 5
Marian Panichas	Grades 1, 2
Christine Reposa	Pre-School – 4-5 y.o.
Julie Szala	Pre-School – 3-4 y.o.
Jennifer Wallace	Kindergarten
Tracy Bennett	230-Day Primary
Jodie Audet	Visual Learners

Motion: Medeiros/Second: Lovett. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Vinhateiro added that all of the above appointments were made to fill vacancies due to either retirements or resignations and that no full-time positions had been added to the budget. There are actually nine fewer professional staff positions this coming school year and

the cumulative total is at 31.

Facilities Update – Mr. Mutter, Director of Buildings and Grounds reported that the project to install energy saving lighting (Rhode Islanders Saving Energy–RISE) has been completed at Whiteknact, Francis and specific areas at Orlo Avenue School. “No Parking” signs at Hennessey and Whiteknact Schools have been changed to 15 minute parking in front of the schools.

Mr. Medeiros had concerns about emergency vehicles getting through or having access to the Hennessey School building; he would like this to be looked at a little more. Mr. Faria asked if the sidewalks at Silver Spring would be fixed this summer.

Mr. Mutter advised that temporary “No Smoking” signs would be posted in all doorways at the High School, until permanent signs are ready in the fall.

Prospective Grants/Consultants – Dr. Forbes presented the list and asked for approval. Motion by Mr. Medeiros to approve, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 4-0.

Report of Sub-Committees – Eileen Lovett advised that she and David Medeiros have been working on a Family Involvement Policy and are awaiting second passage of that policy. The Committee is planning a Townie Pride Day some time in October and information will be

distributed to principals and teachers, along with a tool kit and other information. Every school in East Providence will be showcased at a future School Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Faria to accept the second passage of the Family Involvement Policy, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Vinhateiro recommended approval of the Crisis Response Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Faria for second passage of the Crisis Response Policy, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Vinhateiro recommended approval of the Wellness Policy. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the second passage of the Wellness Policy, seconded by Mr. Faria. Vote 4-0. Mrs. Morris asked that the fundraising ideas be made available to the schools before the start of the new school year.

Parent Notification System – Mr. Vinhateiro advised that since the discussion at the last meeting, other companies had come forward with information regarding parent notification systems; therefore, it was decided in a staff meeting that it would be best to request proposals (RFP) in order to give everyone an opportunity to apply. Mr. Vinhateiro asked the School Committee for permission to go forward with a Request for Proposals for Parent Notification Systems.

A motion was made by Mr. Faria to approve an RFP, seconded by Mr. Medeiros. Vote 4-0.

Middle School Math Pilot Program – Mr. Vinhateiro advised that a new math program had been piloted in Grade 6 this year and it was decided that if results were positive, the program would be implemented in Grade 6 in the fall with a phase-in of the new series in Grade 7 and 8. At that time, the School Committee asked for information on what other school districts were using this program and that information was sent out in a recent packet. Dr. Forbes advised that an evaluation of the program revealed that ten teachers at both Middle Schools recommended it; four with reservations regarding the teacher's manual; 100% of the teachers approve of the text. The Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent recommended that the School Committee approve adoption of this program. Mrs. Morris said she could not go along with approving the program because she felt that comparisons were not done. Motion by Mrs. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Faria to approve the program. Vote 3-1 to approve; Mrs. Morris voted nay.

A parent, Mrs. Patti Streit, related that she felt the program was needed at the middle schools and hoped that everyone will forge ahead to get something productive going.

New Business

Local Advisory Committee for Special Education – By-Laws/Membership Appointment - Sharon Waterman, Director of Special Services, advised that RI Special Education Regulations require that the School Committee appoint a local advisory committee and approve its by-laws. Mr. Richard Moore, Co-Chair of the East Providence Local Advisory Committee for Special Education, was present to answer questions regarding the membership list and by-laws, which had been provided to the School Committee. Mr. Faria asked that the dates of their meetings be placed on the website. Mr. Moore advised that brochures would be distributed in the community by September. Mr. Vinhateiro thanked Mr. Moore and members of the Committee for their involvement. A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to approve the By-Laws and the Membership Appointment List, seconded by Mrs. Lovett and Faria. Vote 4-0.

Breakfast Program – Item withdrawn. No Discussion.

Lunch Sales Analysis – This item was tabled. No Discussion

Smoking Policy – First Passage – Mr. Vinhateiro advised that the High School nurse, Kathleen Reese was present to answer any questions regarding the new Smoking Policy and he recommended that the School Committee approve first passage this evening. Mr. Faria wanted cessation program to be a mandatory issue. Mrs. Morris said another component was community service. Attorney Andrew Thomas advised that he spoke with RIDE's legal counsel and they

advised that community service is really for criminal issues and not at this level. Mr. Vinhateiro related that there are also long term health concerns regarding smoking. Mrs. Morris felt this issue needs supervision and enforcement and she requested parental support and involvement. A motion for first passage was made by Mr. Medeiros, seconded by Mrs. Lovett. Vote 3-1. Mr. Faria voted nay.

Payment of Bills

Warrant #000573 6/1/05 \$1,199,995.40

Motion: Lovett/Second: Faria. Vote 4-0.

Question and Answer Period

Mr. Furtado said he would like the ESL and Special Education Advisory Committees involved in the Family Involvement project. He would like to work with Mr. Vinhateiro to get all of our schools active and certified similar to Riverside Middle School's involvement.

Mr. Robert Rodericks recognized Mr. Bob Macedo for his volunteer work; for about seven years, he has volunteered his time to tape the School Committee meetings with an all-volunteer crew, taping, editing and getting the meetings on cable TV. Bob is leaving RI and moving to Maine and this is his last meeting. He was thanked for more than his share of volunteering.

A motion was made by Mr. Medeiros to adjourn at 10:05PM, seconded by Mrs. Lovett.

Vote 4-0.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia A. Iannelli, Executive Secretary

David A. Medeiros, Clerk of the Committee